



**AMHERST TOWN WARRANT
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 8, 2016**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Amherst in the County of Hillsborough and the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of Amherst will be held, in accordance with NH RSA 40:13. The first session, to transact all business other than voting, is on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Souhegan High School Auditorium (Snow Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 7 PM at Souhegan High School). The second session, voting by official ballot at the polls, is on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the Souhegan High School from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

ARTICLE 21: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing terms as follows:

2 Selectmen for 3 Years

1 Moderator for 2 Years

1 Cemetery Trustee for 3 Years

3 Library Trustees for 3 Years

1 Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 Years

1 Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 Years

1 Zoning Board of Adjustment Member for 1 Year

1 Zoning Board of Adjustment Member for 3 Years

ARTICLE 22: Operating Budget

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling **\$12,896,109**. Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be **\$12,596,564** which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other Warrant Article. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 4-1-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$ 0.42 (forty-two cents per thousand).

ARTICLE 23: Contingency Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year, in accordance with NH RSA Section 31:98-a, for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate one hundred thousand dollars (**\$100,000**) to go into the fund. Said sum shall come from the undesignated fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$ 0.00 (zero cents per thousand).

ARTICLE 24: Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (**\$25,000**) to be added to the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$ 0.02 (two cents per thousand).

The Assessing Revaluation CRF balance: \$83,134 as of December 31, 2015.

ARTICLE 25: Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (**\$25,000**) to be added to the Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 4-1-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.02 (two cents per thousand).

The Communication CRF balance: \$41,031 as of December 31, 2015.

ARTICLE 26: Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-five thousand dollars (**\$65,000**) to be added to the Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.04 (four cents per thousand).

The Fire Station Renovation CRF balance: \$55,016 as of December 31, 2015.

ARTICLE 27: Appropriation of Previously Collected Land Use Change Tax Funds and Deposit to the Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000), said sum to come from the amount collected and deposited into the Land Use Change Tax Fund (LUCT) in the preceding fiscal year, and to transfer said amount into the Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. No additional amount to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.00 (zero cents per thousand).

The Fire Station Renovation CRF balance: \$55,016 as of December 31, 2015.

ARTICLE 28: Fire Truck Refurbish and Purchase Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (**\$150,000**) to be added to the Fire Truck /Refurbish and Purchase Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.10 (ten cents per thousand).

The Fire Truck CRF balance: \$442,080 as of December 31, 2015.

ARTICLE 29: Change of Purpose, Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:16, to the Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, and further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (2/3 vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.00 (zero cents per thousand).

ARTICLE 30: Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) to be added to the Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. In the event Article 29 does not pass, this amount will be added to the existing Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund.

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.02 (two cents per thousand).

The Bridge Replacement CRF has a balance of \$20,115 as of December 31, 2015.

ARTICLE 31: Open Space Land, Conservation Commission

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the purchase of open space land or other property interests as determined by the Selectmen and further, that the amount raised and appropriated herein to be placed into the Amherst Conservation Commission Special Revenue account and may be used to defray the costs attributable to due diligence inspections, title search charges, closing costs and other similar charges associated with any such acquisition. These funds may only be expended to acquire open space lands to meet conservation needs. (Majority vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.06 (six cents per thousand).

ARTICLE 32: Maintenance Garage Construction Project

To see if the town will vote to establish a Maintenance Garage Construction Project Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of building a town vehicle maintenance garage and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in said fund and further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority Vote)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 4-1-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee does not support this article by a vote of 0-6-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.06 (six cents per thousand).

ARTICLE 33: Old Mail Road from Class VI to Class B Trail

Shall the Town vote to reclassify segments of the Class VI roadway known as Old Mail Road, commencing at its intersection with Winterberry Drive thence northerly approximately 3,220± feet to the southeasterly corner of the parcel of land identified as Lot 10-61-1 on the Tax Maps of the Town; and commencing at the intersection of New South Road thence northerly approximately 1,400± feet to the intersection with Horace Greely Road from a Class VI Road to a Class B trail in accordance with RSA 231-A:3. *(Majority vote)*

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$00.00 (zero cents per thousand).

Zoning Warrant Articles

ARTICLE 34: Mobile Homes & Trailers

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 3.6 of the Zoning Ordinance, Mobile Homes & Trailers, clarifying that unoccupied recreational vehicles may be stored in all zones, allowing temporary occupancy of a recreational vehicle by a person for whom a residence is being built on the property, and

allowing limited temporary occupancy of a recreational vehicle on a property for non-paying guests of the property owner.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

ARTICLE 35: Proposed Text Amendment Changes for Consistency with 2015 Amendments

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Sections 4.3.A.7, 4.5.B.7 and 4.16.E of the Zoning Ordinance for text amendments and reference updates consistent with Zoning Amendments approved by the Town in 2015.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

ARTICLE 36: Personal Wireless Service Facilities

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 3.16.E of the Zoning Ordinance, Personal Wireless Service Facilities, to eliminate the requirement for site plan review for co-location of antennas on an existing telecommunications tower. This change is proposed to bring the ordinance into compliance with RSA 12K:10.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

ARTICLE 37: Elderly Housing Density

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 4.20A of the Zoning Ordinance, Elderly Housing to delete the minimum next tract area for elderly housing developments.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

ARTICLE 38: Board of Adjustment

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 6.3 of the Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Board of Adjustment, to eliminate the requirement that a member of the Zoning Board shall hold no other elected municipal office, to formalize the authority of the Zoning Board to appoint up to five alternates as provided in RSA 673:6 II-a and to make the conditions for granting a variance consistent with State statute.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

ARTICLE 39: Administration

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 6.1 of the Zoning Ordinance, Administration, to correct formatting errors and update the organization of this section.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

ARTICLE 40: Recreational Uses

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Sections 4.3.A.8, 4.4.B.7, 4.5.B.8, 4.6.B.4, 4.7.A.7, 4.8.A.10, 4.9.A.17, Section 4.7.B.1, Section 4.9.A.14 to permit non-commercial sports and recreation uses in all zones in the Town, subject to site plan review by the Planning Board. And to amend Section 9.1, Definitions, to insert definitions for non-commercial and commercial recreational uses.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

ARTICLE 41: Temporary Sign Standards

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 3.4.5 of the Zoning Ordinance, Temporary Signage by deleting the current language and replacing it with new temporary language that provides consistency in the temporary sign allowance for businesses, community organizations and individuals.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)

ARTICLE 43: Accessory Apartments

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 9 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Sections 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7 and 4.8 of the Zoning Ordinance to add accessory apartments as a permitted use in the zones where they are currently permitted by special exception.

(The Planning Board voted 6-0-0 to support this article)